The passage of Time

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by

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Dedicated to

My parents who bought me my first 35mm SLR camera

Allah the Exalted and Glorious said: Sons of Adam inveigh against [the vicissitudes of] Time, and I am Time, in My hand is the night and the day

Hadith Book 27, Number 5580

Prologue

Time is the thing that changes when nothing else does. Time changes during every breath we take, every second of the clock ticks, whether we are watching or not. Mankind has studied time - from poets to philosophers to scientists and yet I am not sure we are any closer to the truth. We are born, we live through the playfulness of our childhood, rebel during the teenage years, step into the adulthood and raise a family. Then one fine morning, we notice the white hairs on the man in the mirror. No matter how much we try, we can never stop the time neither can we take back a single moment. Time has always fascinated me - its mysterious nature, how it morphs everything and yet remains a dimension that we are not able to master.

We experience time through the changes that happen around us. Every year we live through the change of seasons. Whatever we acquire or consume from the nature has one way or another is impacted by the seasons. Length of the day select the type the crops that grows, falling of rain nourishes the harvest, hail and thunderstorms sometimes destroys the crops. I am fascinated by the drama in the nature that is created by the changing seasons.

We can observe the passage of time on the architectures that are left standing around us. The ancient pyramids, magnificent castles, cobblestone roads preserve the culture and lives of the people of their time for centuries. Then as time passes, civilizations rise and fall and the once mighty hallways of the Kings become empty shells visited by tourists. They were built by powerful men with the hopes of transcending time. But in the end, it was time that has taken away all the glory that they once contained.

While the architecture of men lasts only centuries, the creation of God spans over millennia. We like staring at the snow-covered mountains, staring down the deep canyons, and wondering at the beautiful formations that have formed over thousands of years. All it takes are the forces of nature wind, water, gravity blowing over thousands, millions of years and the plain land morphs into beautiful landscapes. When I stand before such majestic beauty, I take a deep breath and think how short-lived our existence is compared to them. The silent mountains were there long before I existed and will be there long after we all are gone.

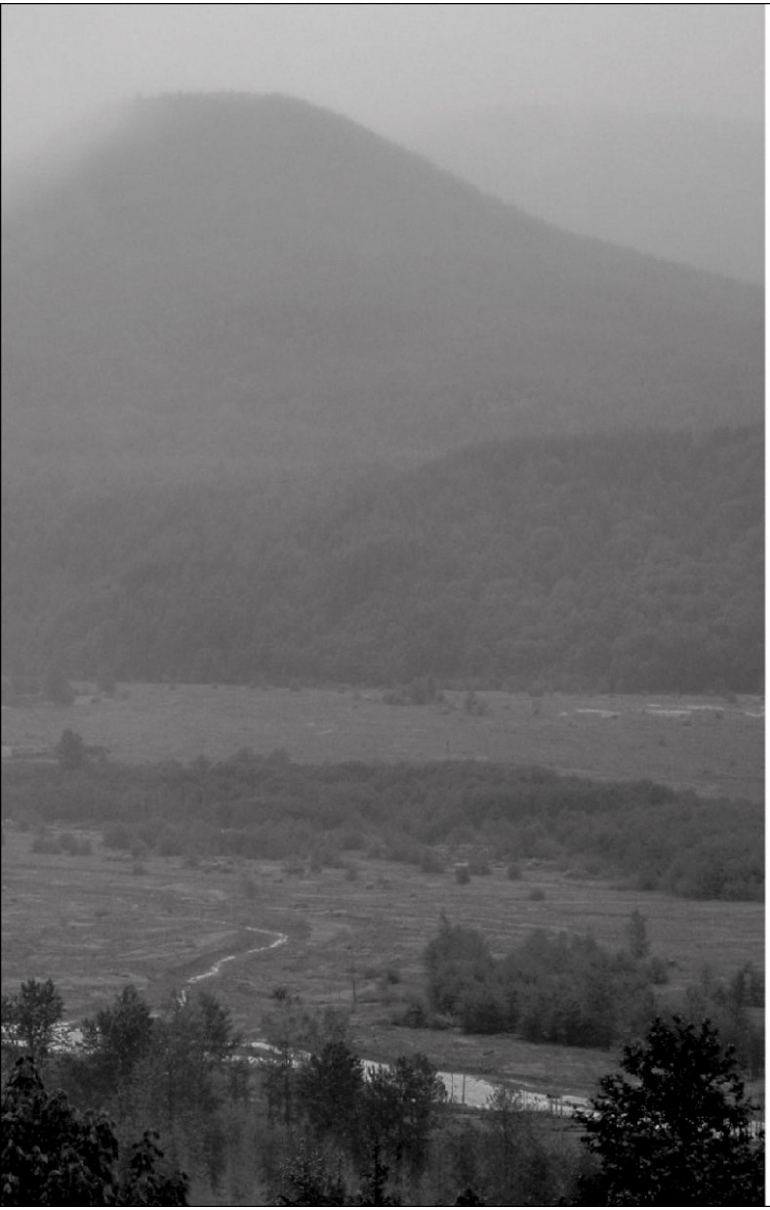
I have gathered some of the my memorable photographs of the changing seasons, the memorable architectures, and the majestic landscapes I have come across during my travels. I hope when you look at the photographs, they would remind you how time has touched everything in your life and make you a little more mindful of the fleeting moment that we are living through.

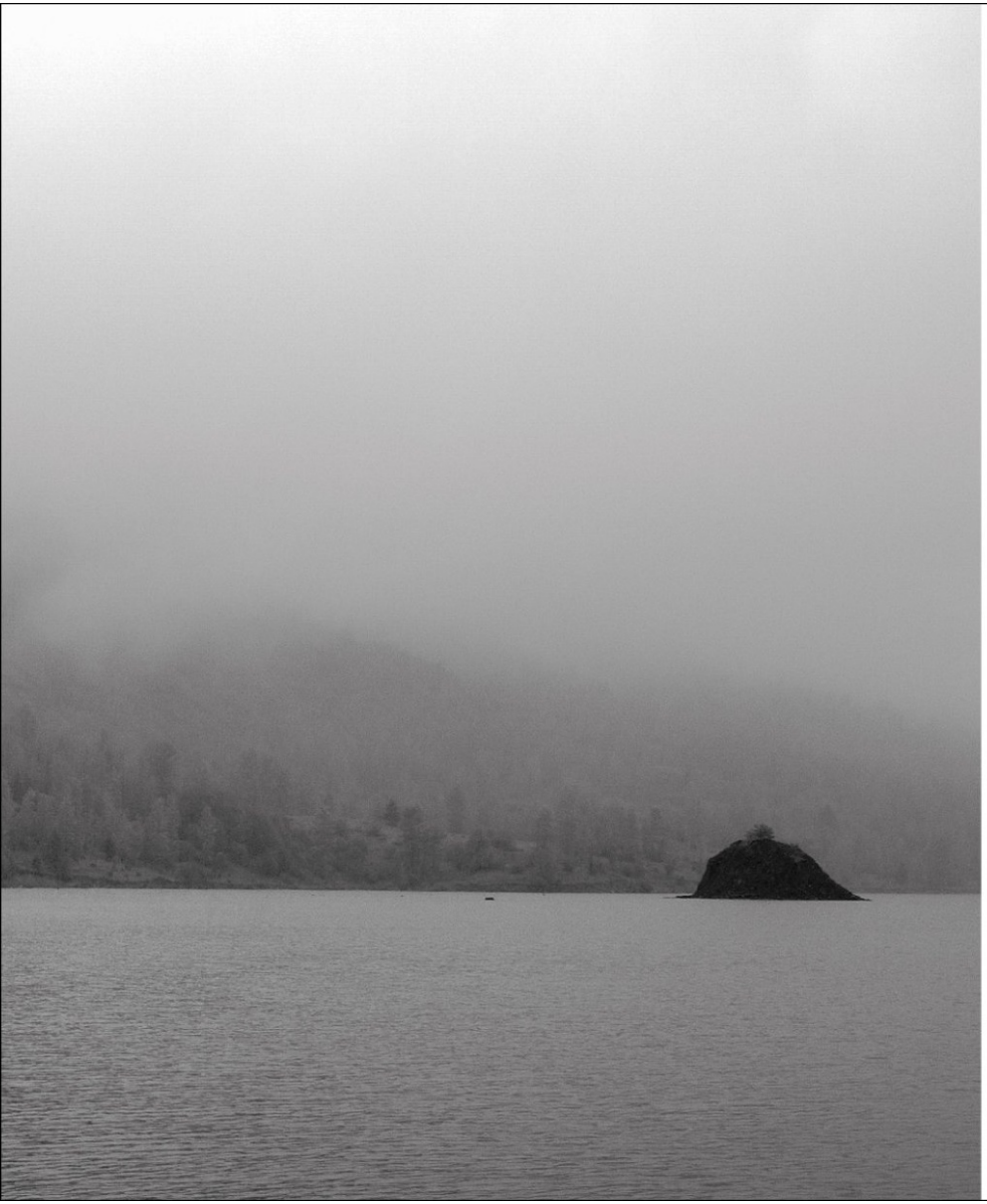
Seasons

And He who sends down (from time to time) water from the sky in due measure, and We raise to life therewith a land that is dead. Even so will you be raised (from the dead).

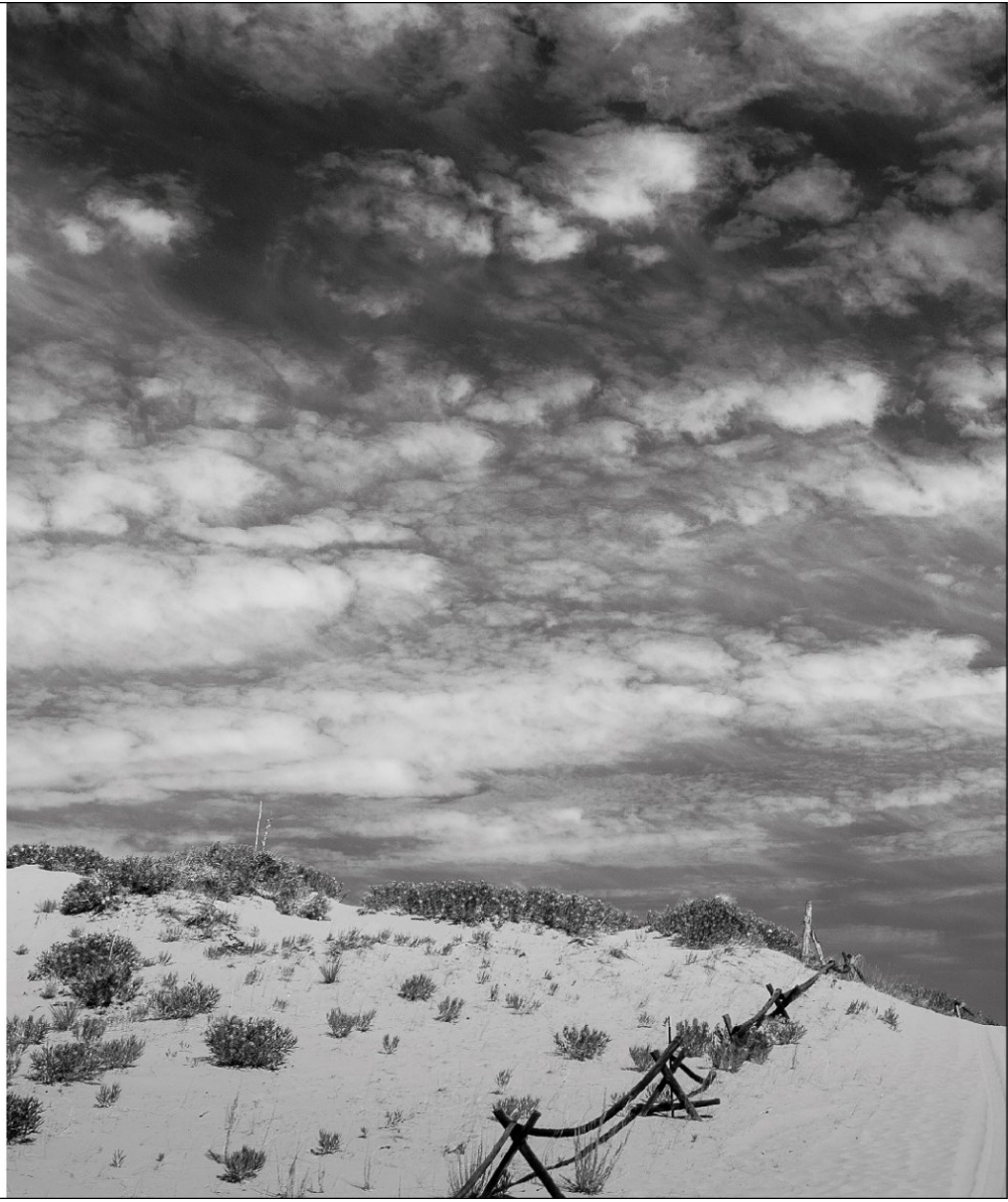
Surah Az-Zukhruf Al-Qur'an (43:11)

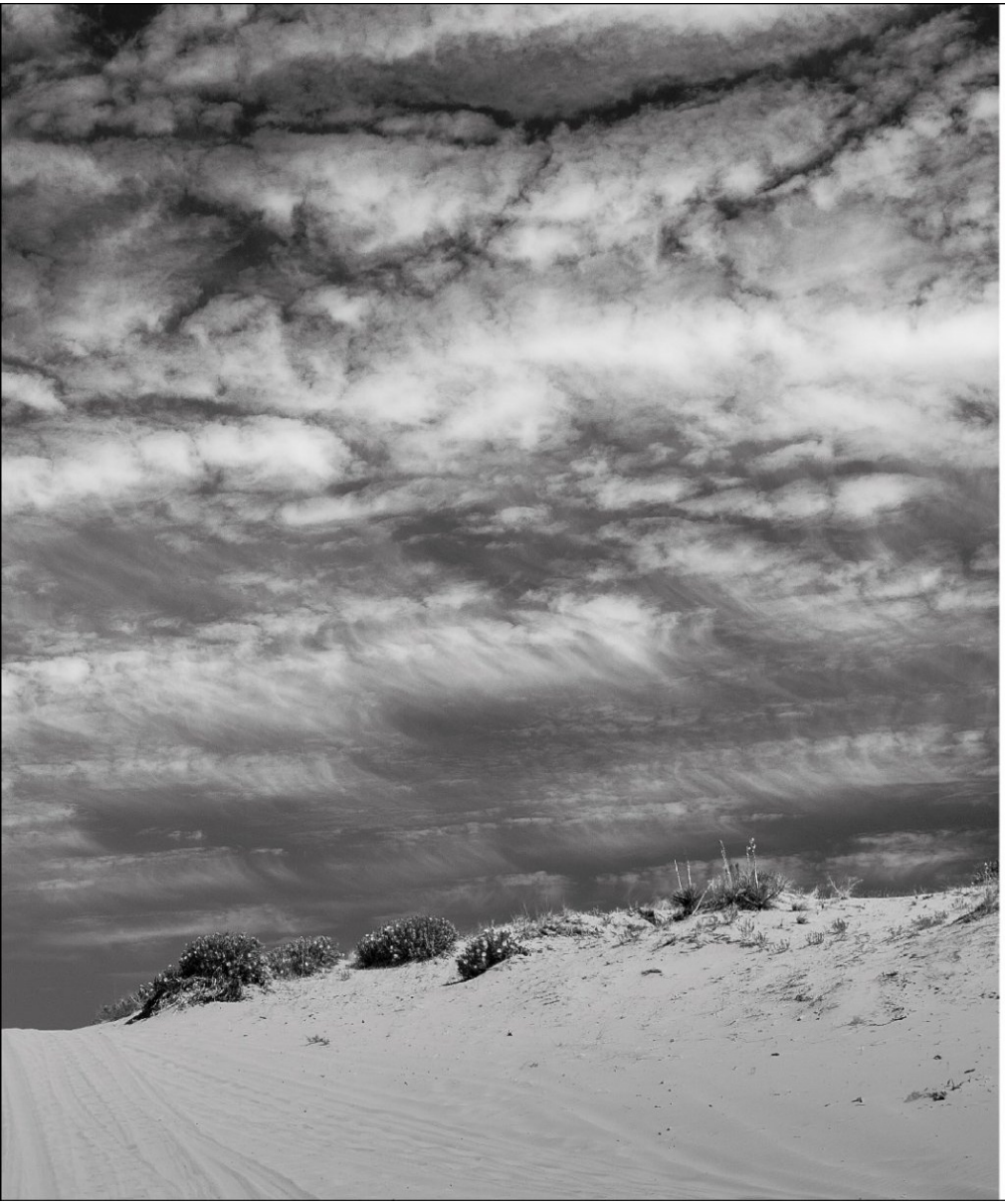
SPRING





SUMMER





Summer state fair in Puyallup,
Washington, USA.

RAIN

FALL

12, 21
13–15
Executive
Briefing Center
1–10
30–32
16–17
Conference

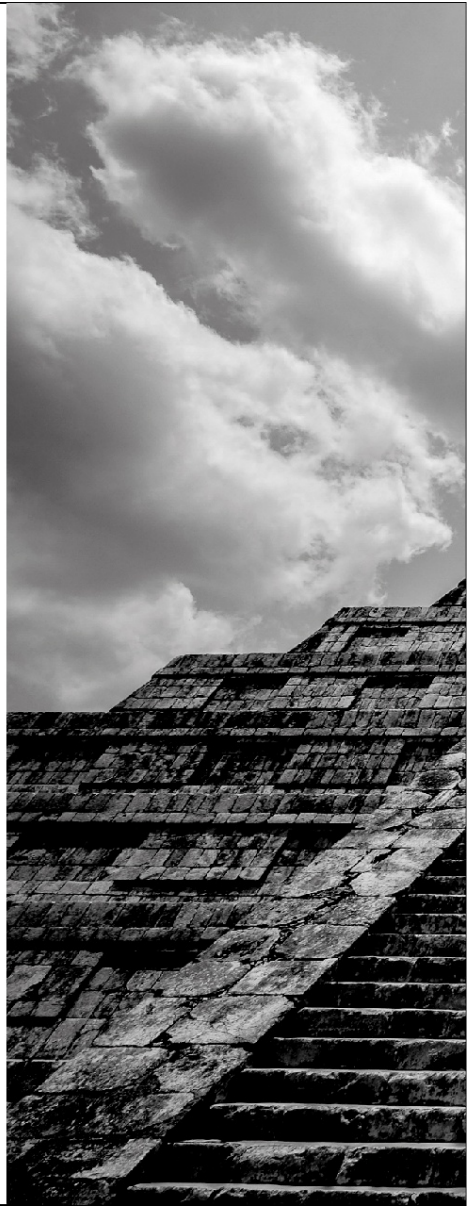
WINTER

Centuries

Have they not traveled through the land and seen how was the end of those before them?
Surah Muhammad Al-Qur'an (47:10)

THE MAYANS

The Mayan civilization built Chichen Itza around 400 AD. Over time it became the capital of the Mayans. Around 1200AD, for reasons unclear, the capital moved to a neighboring city and once thriving capital went into the decline.



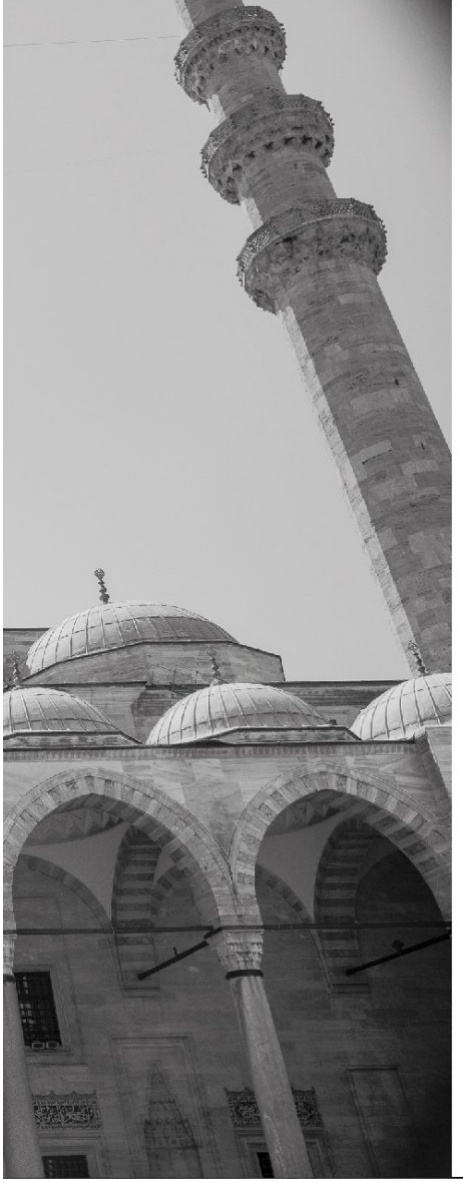
Road to Chichen Itza built by the Mayans

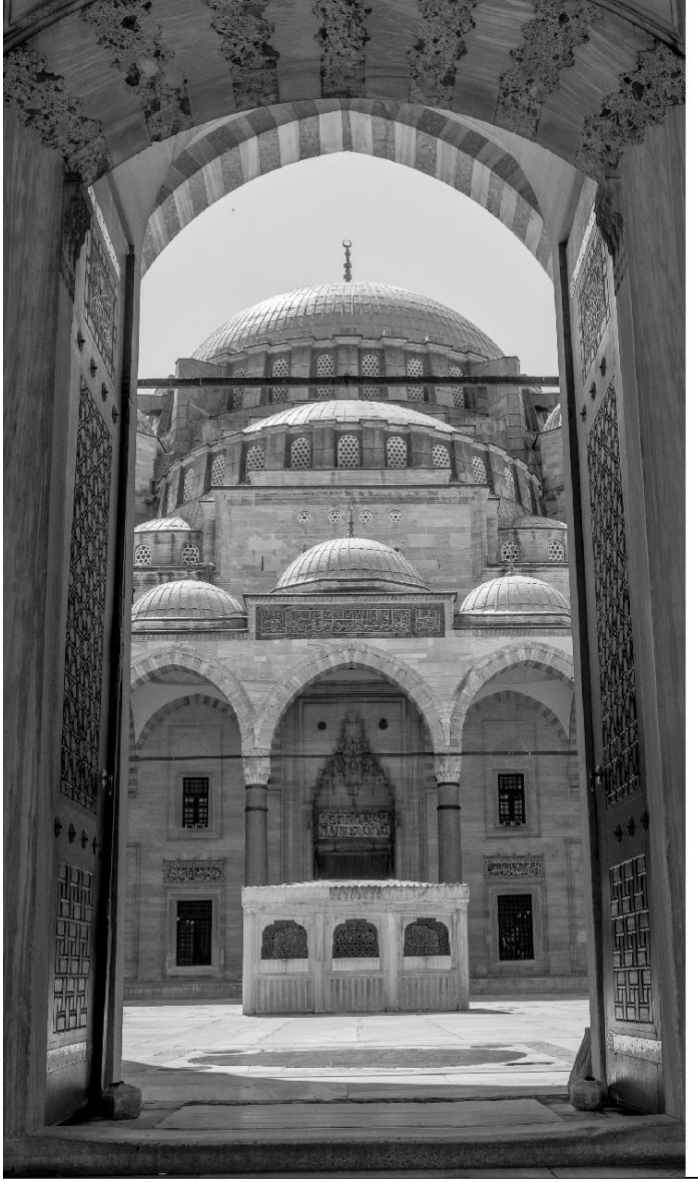
Wall surrounding the soccer field at Chichen Itza

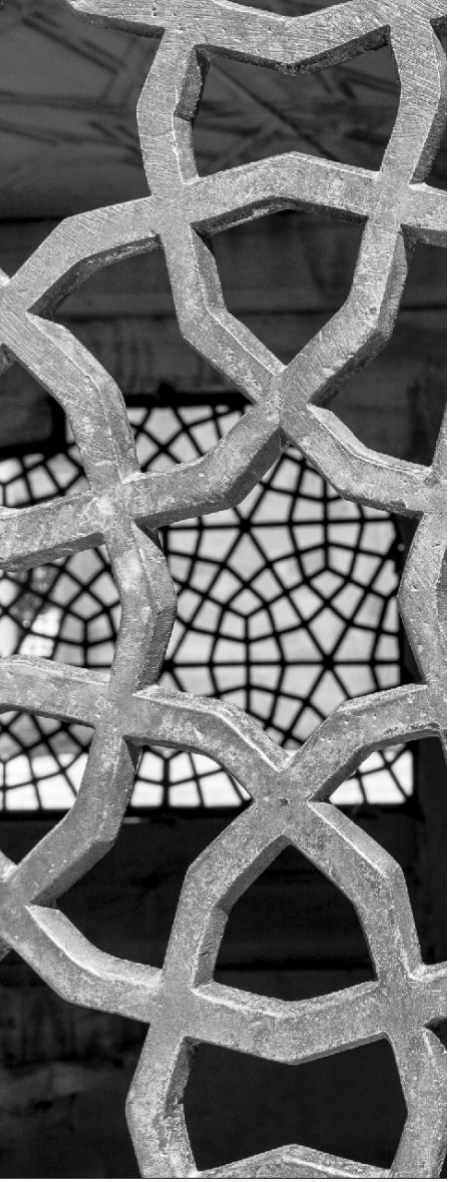
The Ottomans

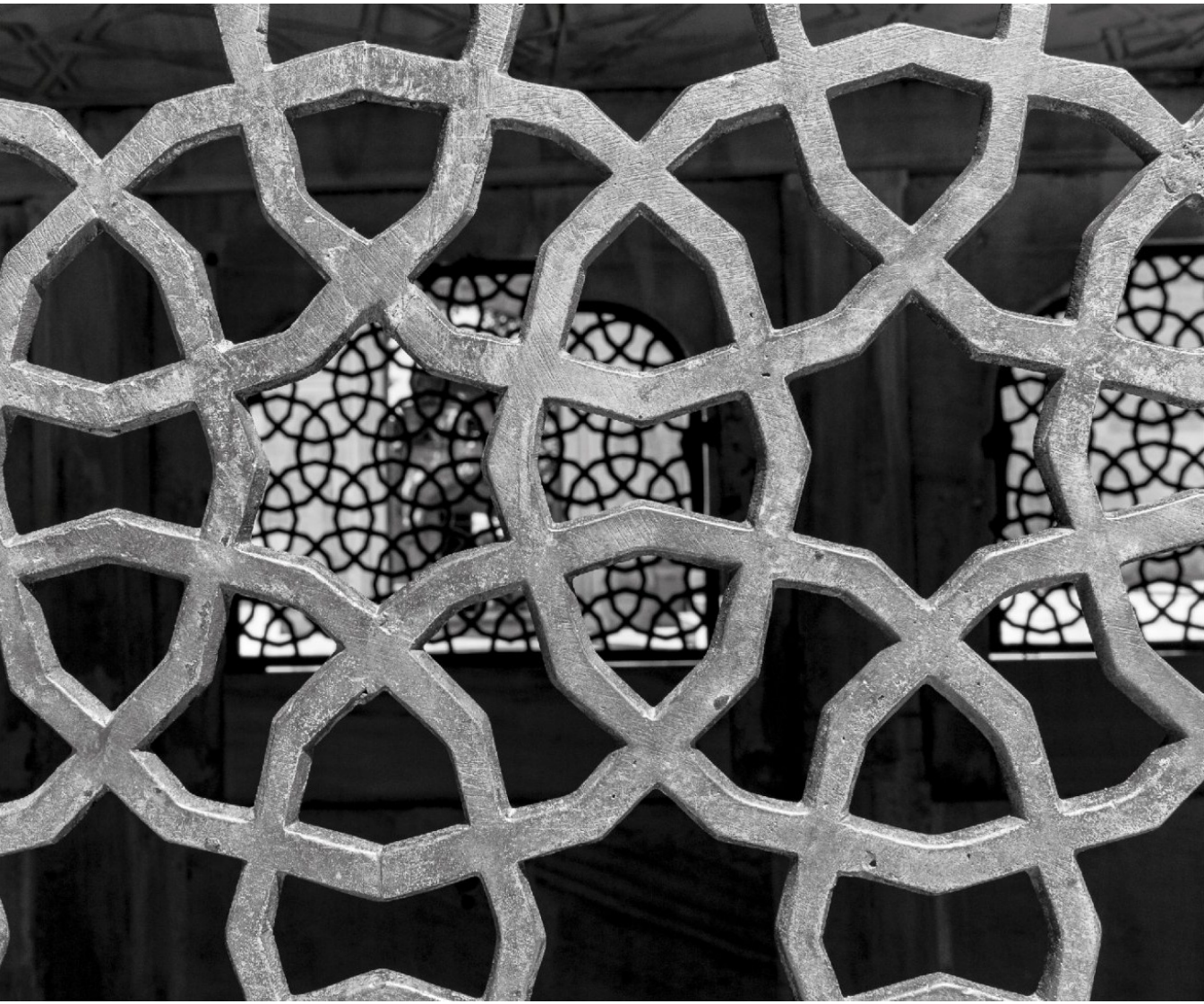
The Ottoman Empire was formed by the tribes of Anatolia in the 15th century and expanded its rule over majority of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East for 600 years. It's end came in the 1922 with the formation of the Turkish Republic. Although, it has lost its glory, you can still see the remnants of its glory days if you visit the modern day Turkey. I was truly amazed by the richness of the culture and the craftsmanship of the people in Turkey during my last visit to Istanbul.

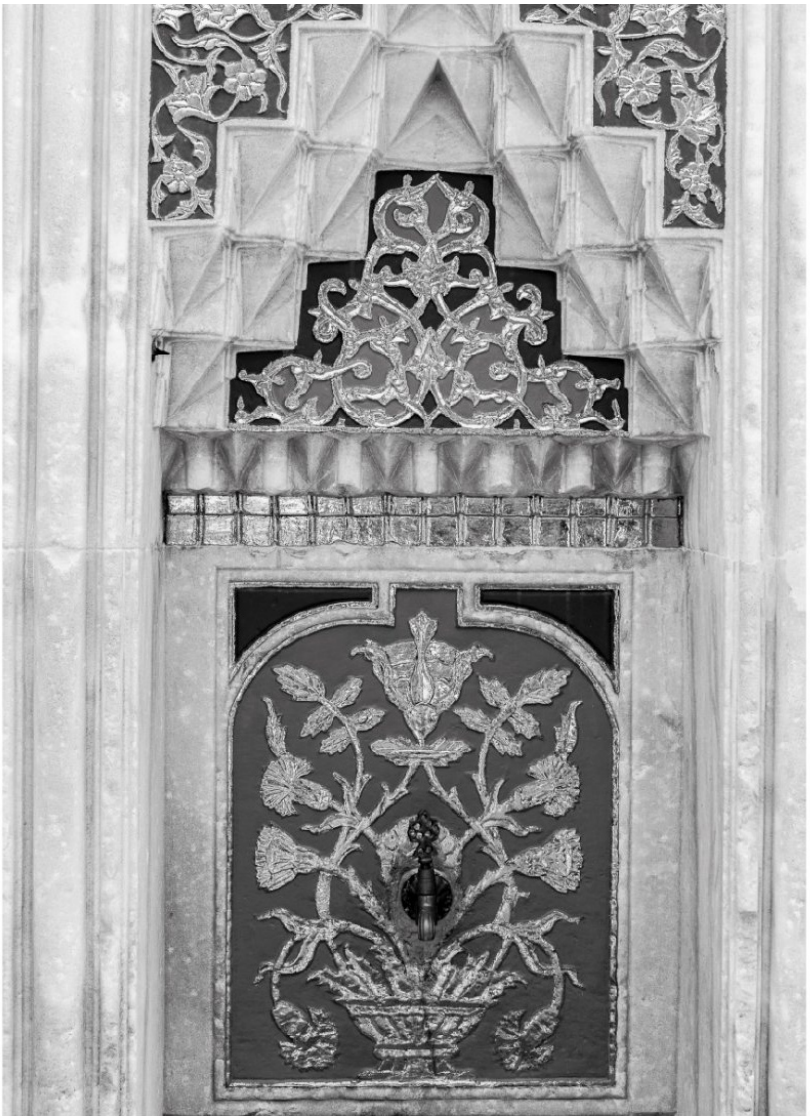
Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey

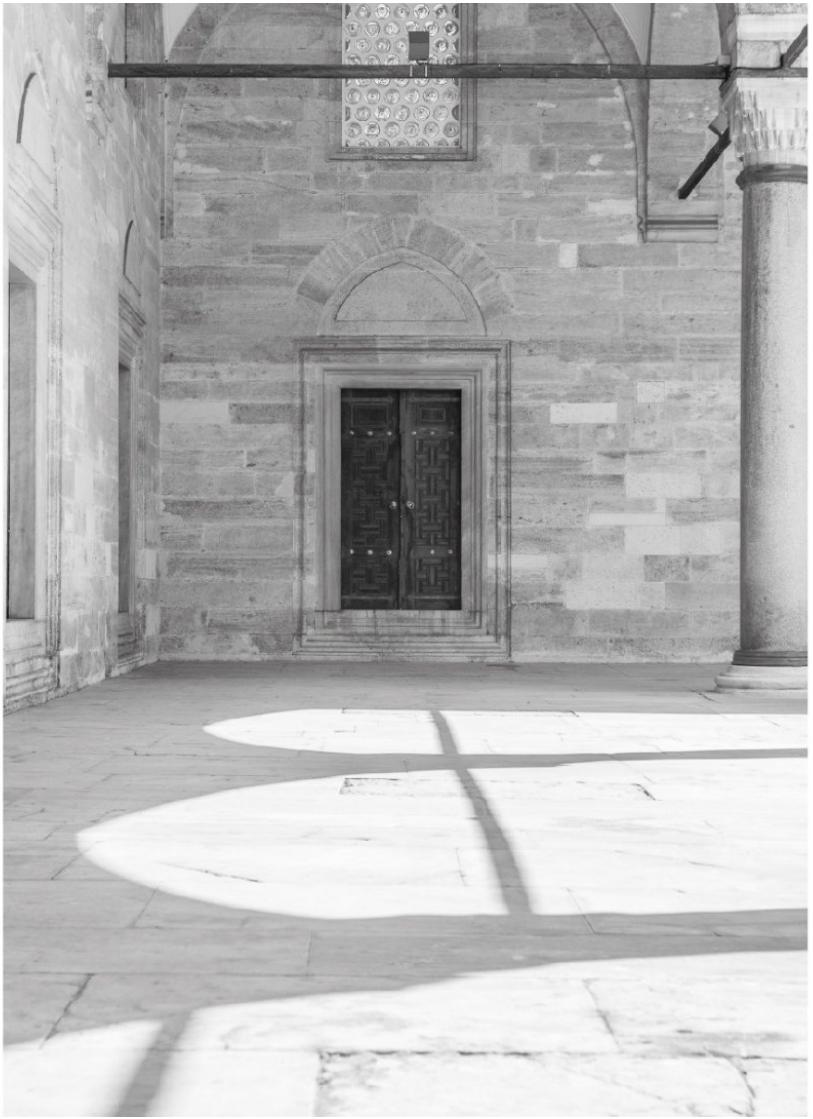


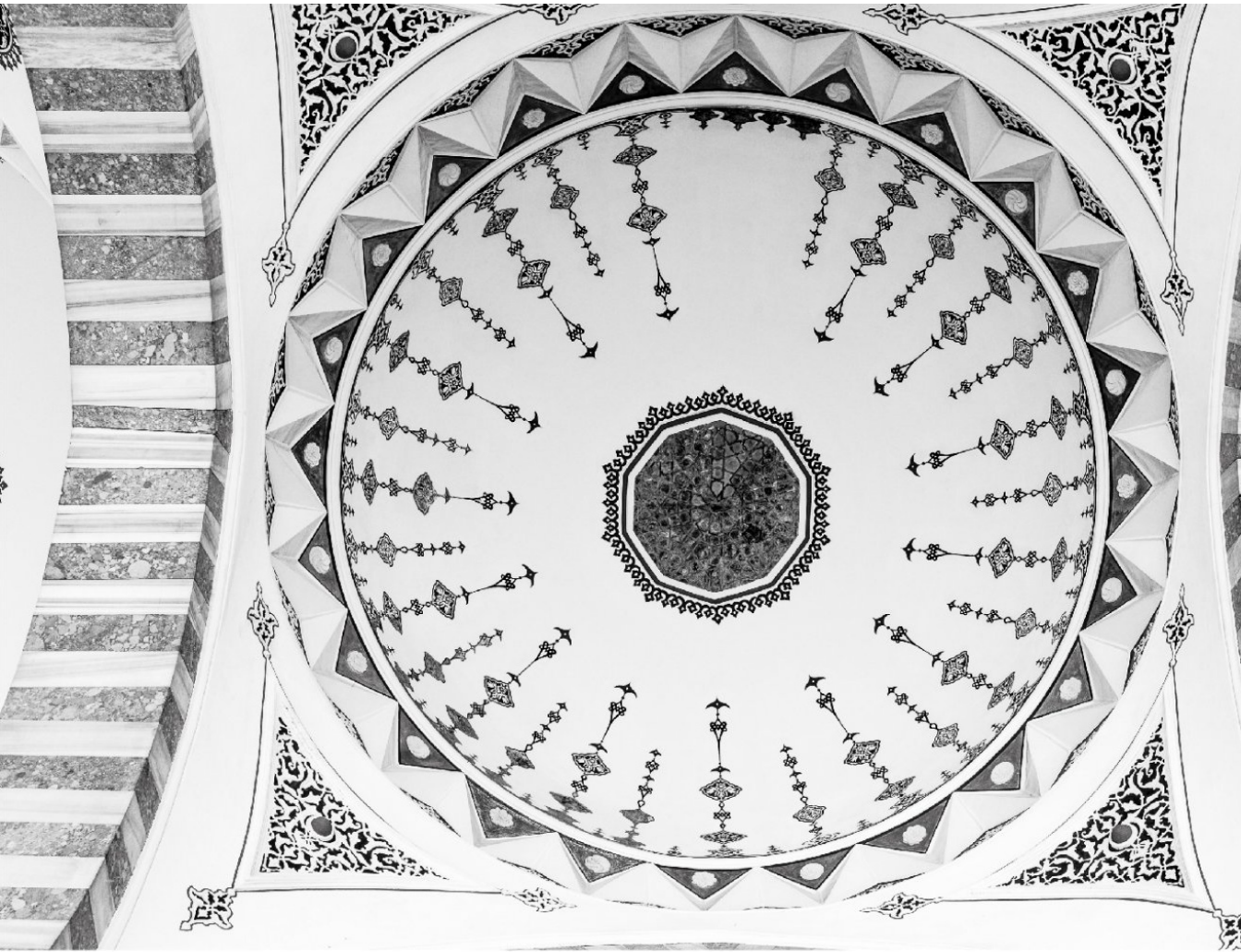


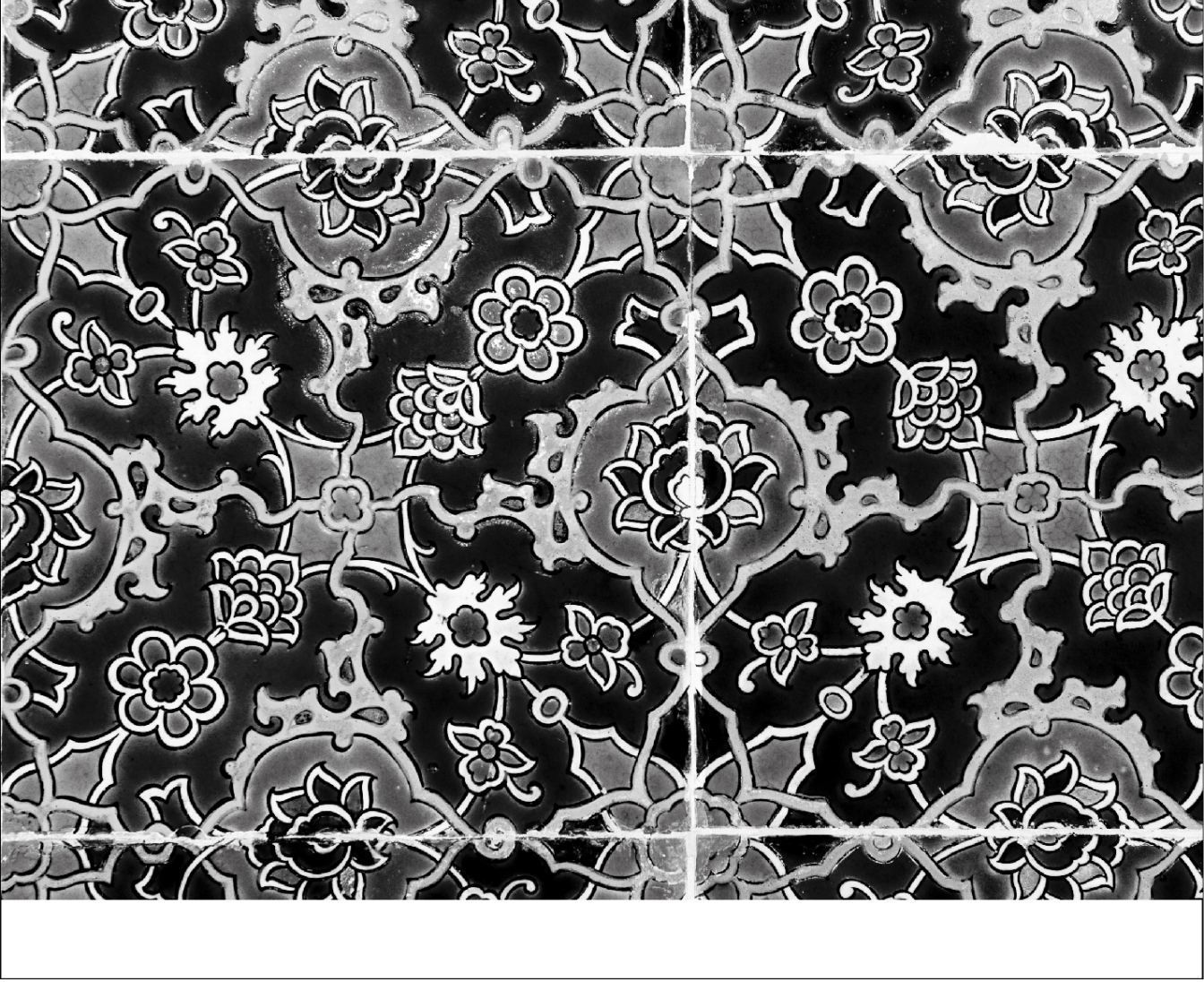


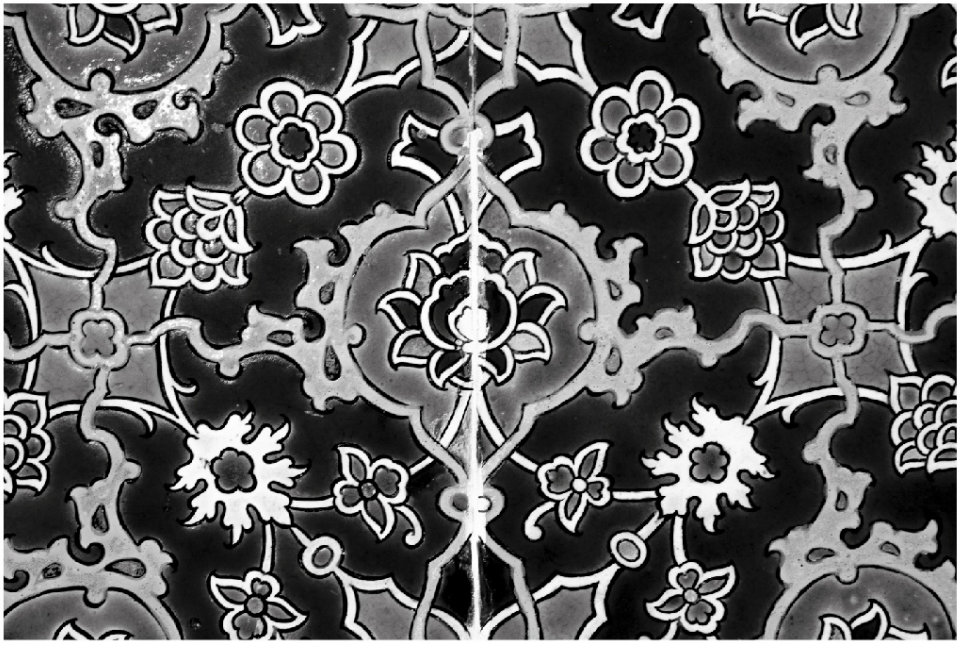












New World

I have lived in the USA for nineteen years. I had the opportunity to experience the slow country life of the Americans while I was studying in a small college town in Nebraska. I also experienced the modern city life of the people living in the urban areas while I worked at Microsoft in Washington. The following pictures show a few snippets of my travels in USA during that time.

Abandoned train station

I have photographed this train station near the Snoqualmie region in the Washington State in the USA. A great deal of the progress the new world has happened due to the train network that connected the people over the natural obstacles and helped their commercial endeavors.

CMSTP&P

SNOQUALMIE
NORTHWEST
RAILROAD CROSSING

U.S. PLYWOOD CORP. (WASH

Shop at Route 66

Coca-Cola
66

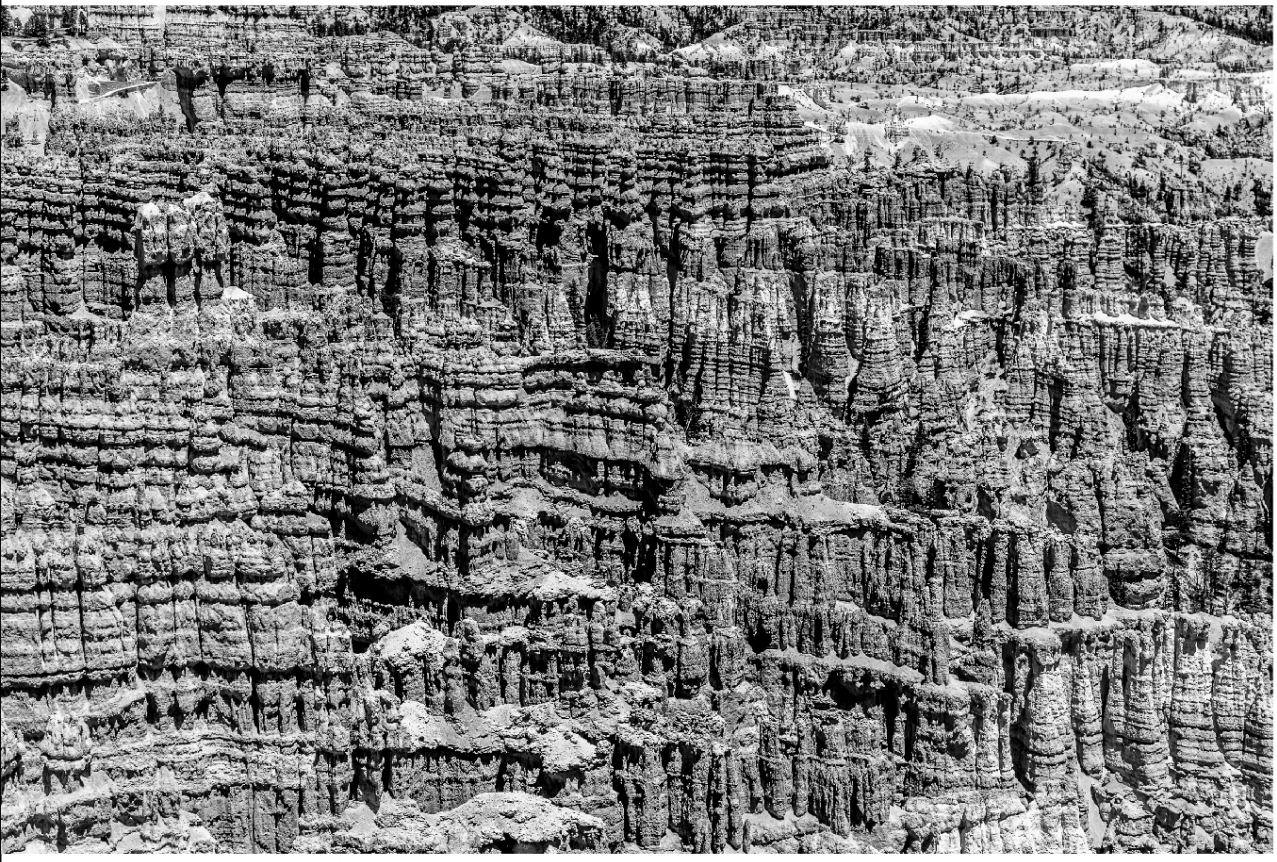
BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Parliament House designed by Louis Kahn

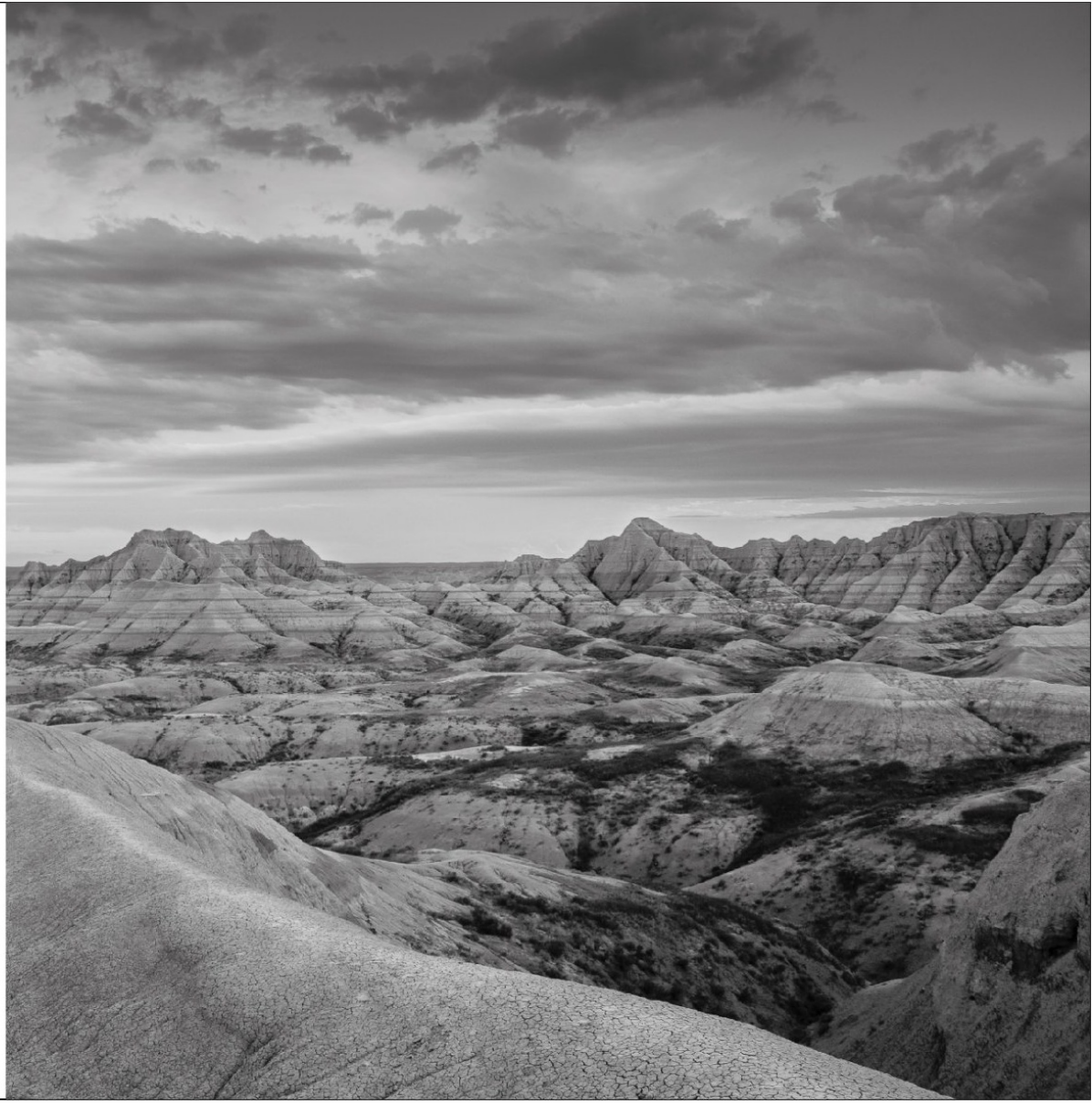
Millenia

Travel throughout the land and see how He originated the creation, then Allah will bring it into being one more time. Surely Allah is Most Capable of everything.

Surah Al-Ankabut Al-Qur'an (29:20)

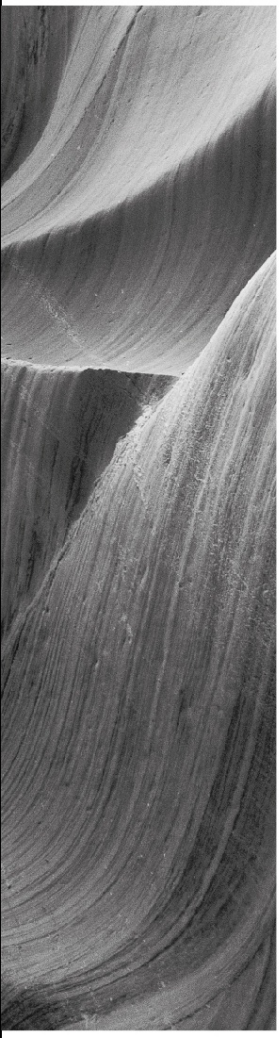


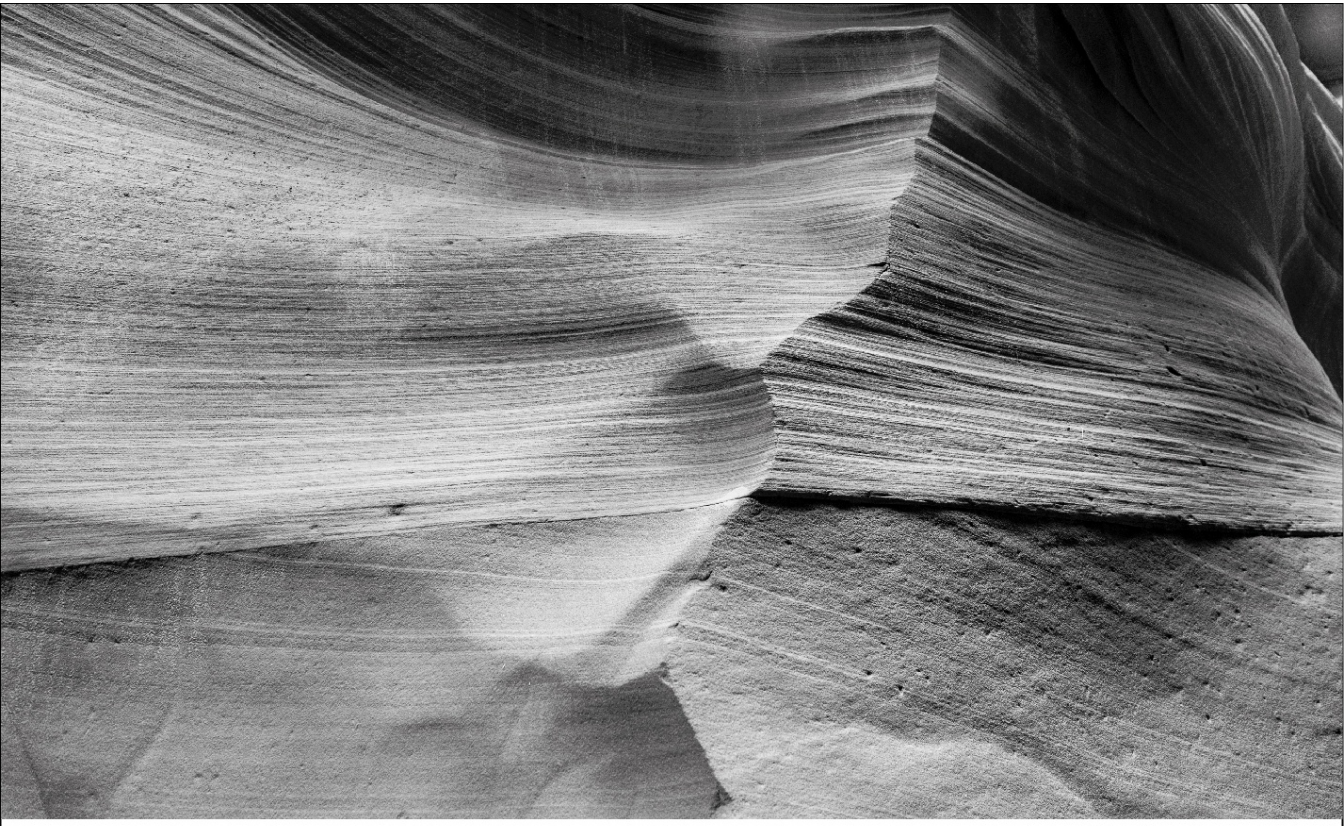
Grand canyon, Arizona, USA



The badwater basin in the Death Valley sits 282 feet below sea level and is the lowest point in the North America. The salt crystals here have come out of the earth over time as the sun bakes its barren earth.

Antellope canyon, Utah, USA





Seastacks on the Rialto Beach, Forks, Washington, USA

Epilogue

Where do I go from here? My travels and practice of urban and landscape photography has been an interesting journey of introspection for me. It allowed me to reflect upon what I find aesthetically pleasing and motivating.